think the whole House will agree. Yes, Mr. Bhardwaj.

SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ: Madam Deputy Chairman, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, as passed by the Lok Sabha, to be taken into consideration."

As you are aware during the years 1986 and 1988 substantial improvements in the service conditions of the Judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court had been made. The present Bill is a result of the concern for bringing further improvements in the service conditions of judges. The Bill reflects the continuing effort to build and preserve a strong and independent judiciary.

In the Bill passed by the Rajya Sabha on the 14th August, 1986, and 30th March, 1988, enhanced pensionary benefits, enhanced sumptuary allowance and conveyance allowances were extended to the judges with effect from 1st November, 1986. Now the Government proposes to give benefits to the Judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court in the form of raising the quantum of carry-forward of leave to the judges from 180 days to 240 days, enhanced leave allowances after 45 days of leave, to raise the minimum family pension to Rs. 375 per month to the family of a judge with effect from 1.11.1986, and to clarify the meaning of expression "family pension" to make it more specific.

In view of the above, the Bill is being placed before this House for consideration and I hope this will meet the wholehearted support from all Members of this august House and the Bill may be returned.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I hope the House will support the Bill. The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954, and the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, as passed by the Lok Sabha be taken into consideration.'

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ: Madam, I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The entire House obeyed me today. I am thankful. I would request the Members to obey me in future as well, from now on.

Now the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS—

I. Violent incidence in Gohpur Area of Assam

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): Madam, We had promised to this august House the other day to give a detailed statement on the violence in Gohpur area of Assam as soon as authentic reports are received from the State Government of Assam and the Central Team sent by us. There reports have since been received and

[Shri Santosh Mohan Dev]

I, therefore, rise to make a statement on this issue.

2. The Government are greatly concerned at the outbreak of violence in the Gohpur Reserve Forest area in Assam on the north bank of the river Brahamaputra. According to messages from the Governor and Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh received here on the 12th afternoon over 3000 Bodos had fled from their villages in Assam as a result of group clashes and firing and entered lower Sibansari District of Arunachal Pradesh.

3. Meanwhile alarming reports were appearing in the Press of heavy casualties in the Gohpur clashes involving Bodos and no authentic factual report was received from the Government of Assam. Efforts were made to contract the State Government over the phone and it was understood from the Chief Secretary that confirmed information was only of 4 deaths, but arson had taken place in 30 villages. One column of army was called on the 11th afternoon and peace has been restored.

4. HM sent personnel messages immediately to the Chief Minister of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh advising them to take effective and coordinated measures to restore normalcy, prevent reprisals and private relief to the victims. In view of the conflicting reports as stated above and absence of confirmation of factual position by the State Government, we decided to send a central team led by a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs to the affected area immediately. The team left on the 13th morning, visited the affected area, also made an aerial reconnaissance and had discussions with both the State Governments and local officials. They were in Itanagar on the 15th when Governor, Chief Minister and Chief Secretary, Assam visited Itanagar.

5. During aerial reconnaissance, the Central team could see a large number of huts having been burnt down in about 50 villages and hamlets located north of the National Highway 52 and extending upto the borders of the Lower Sibansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh. They met several affected persons—both Bodos and others. Apparently, the current spate of violence was sparked off with the killing of a non-Bodo by suspected Bodo miscreants in the Lakhimpur District on 7th night, when his house was burnt and a 5 year old boy was thrown into the fire. Thereafter, groups of non-Bodos and Bodos committed large scale arson in villages. According to the figures collected from the district authorities in Assam, 33 villages in Sonitpur District and 14 in Lakhimpur District were affected by arson. Number of confirmed deaths given by Assam Government was 16, including 7—all non-Bodos in Sonitpur District and 9 (Bodos—4 and non-Bodos—5) in Lakhimpur District. In addition, 4 dead bodies were reported to have been recovered in Arunachal Pradesh. According to the Central Relief Committee of Bodos, 22 Bodos were dead and many more are missing, but it has not been possible to verify this claim. Assam Government have opened 31 relief camps, with around 26,500 inmates as on 15th August. This included over 1100 Bodos. A large number of Bodos fled and took shelter in Arunachal Pradesh. In absence of registration, precise number is not known, but the figure is estimated to be between 15,000 and 20,000. Arunchal Pradesh Government have given 140 quintals of rice, dal, salt, and some medical supplies to the Central Relief Committee of Bodos which is managing these camps. The area being wide-spread and inaccessible, it has not been possible for the Central Team to ascertain the precise figures of death and houses burnt. The Centre have impressed upon the State Government to prevent retaliation by groups and recurrence of violence and to take adequate relief and rehabili-

tation measures. All necessary assistance has been assured to them in this regard. During their visit to Itanagar on the 15th August, the Governor and Chief Minister and Chief Secretary of Assam had detailed discussions with their counterparts and Central Team at Itanagar on a coordinated plan of action. Assam Government agreed to set up camps in Assam near the Arunachal border for the Bodo refugees and assured adequate protection to enable them to resume their normal life in own villages. The State Government of Assam have informed us today that they have ordered a judicial enquiry into the Gohpur incident by a sitting High Court Judge under the Commission of Enquiry Act.

6. As regards the long-standing agitation by the Bodos, which they had intensified since February this year, the Central Government have been trying to persuade the State Government of Assam to initiate a dialogue with the tribal groups so that a negotiated solution of the problem could be found. I am happy that following Home Minister's discussions with the Chief Minister of Assam on the 9th August, the State Government have agreed to hold a meeting in Delhi later this month. The Centre has, at their request, agreed to depute an Observer at the Ministerial level. I am happy to say that good sense has now prevailed, and according to today's Press reports, the 1001-hours Bandh has been called off by ABSU. We hope that meaningful negotiation for a fair and just solution of the problem would now commence.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, we observe from the statement made by the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs that it was not possible even for the Central team to ascertain the precise figures in regard to the number of deaths and houses burnt though, he has said in the statement that during aerial reconnaissance, the Central team could see a large number of huts having been burnt down in about 50 villages. Anyway, it is true that even the Central team could not ascertain the exact number of deaths and the number of houses burnt. The Assam Government has given certain figures which have been quoted in the statement.

When we discussed this issue in connection with the Special Mention made on the floor of the House two days ago, it was quoted from newspaper reports that more than 100 people were killed and that some 60,000 people had fled. It has now been confirmed by the statement made by the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs that that news was highly exaggerated and was blown out of proportions.

The first clarification I would like to seek from the hon. Minister is, whether the Union Government will be investigating into the source of such highly exaggerated information finding its way to the Press. I would also like to know whether the Government would share that report of investigation with Parliament. Madam, this is very serious. At the end the hon. Minister has expressed the hope. An attempt is being made to arrive at a negotiated settlement of this problem. The Assam Government has also agreed which we, from our side, also wanted. The Bodo agitators have also responded. When there is an attempt to arrive at a negotiated settlement, which all of us want suddenly there was a clash between two groups, tribals and non-tribals and a blown-up information found its way to the Press. This is very important because there is an apprehension. There is an apprehension that there is some machination to blow up such news, such information, and create a situation that may lead to the negotiations not getting off to a start at all, or, lead to disruption the negotiations. I think the Minister of State for Home

[Shri Dipen Ghosh]

Affairs should have come out with the statement about the sources of such information that found way to the newspaper. Any attempt to sensationalise the news in that area particularly will only harm the cause of unity of tribals and non-tribals.

Secondly, Madam, the news item about more than 100 killed and 60,000 fled, as I have noted, was based on an agency report and that agency is Government-controlled, very much connected with the Union Government. So, I would like to know whether the Union Home Ministry is prepared to investigate or will be investigating who the representative of that agency was, who gave this information and passed it on to the newspaper.

Thirdly and finally Madam, my party has always expressed its opinion that the Assam Government must sit with the Bodo agitating organisation to have a negotiated settlement, to arrive at a negotiated settlement within the State of Assam, to see to what extent local autonomy could be given to the Bodos. We also wanted that the Bodo agitators and for that matter their organisation should also respond to such a negotiated settlement. Now, according to the Minister of State for Home Affairs, both the parties have agreed to meet at the negotiation table, but there is already a newspaper report that the Central intelligence agency, RAW's hand is there behind this incident. I do not want to give RAW any clean chit. Raw is not lily white, we have seen from our earlier experiences. Even the other day in Tripura Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev, the Minister for Home Affairs, after his successful Tripura operation...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us not bring in Tripura. Let us go to Assam. (*Interruptions*) It is not a question of parliamentary or unparliamentary; it is beyond the purview of this subject-matter.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I would like to know what steps the Government will be taking to see that the RAW hands are off from that part of our country.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): Madam, from the statement it would be evident that about 50,000 Bodos and non-Bodos have been displaced and they have taken shelter in camps set up by the Government of Assam and also certain camps opened by the Arunachal Government. From the statement of the hon. Minister it is also clear that there has not been further spurt of violence. May I know whether there will be a joint meeting between the Chief Ministers of Arunachal and Assam, Governor of Arunachal and the Central team? I would like to know whether some detailed programme has been worked out for the rehabilitation of these 50,000 people. What are the steps that the Government proposes to take for effective and speedy rehabilitation of these people who have taken shelter in the camps?

Even after this incident, the newspaper reports have made it clear that there has been a fresh spurt of violence in Mangaldoi and Khairabari and also that these clashes are of communal nature. In these cases, may I know from the hon. Minister whether intelligence report was there that after this violence at Sunitpur district, this kind of violence may erupt in other places also, particularly where there is a mixed population of Bodos and non-Bodos. If that kind of report was available with the Central Government, particularly with RAW, as Mr. Dipen Ghosh was mentioning what were the steps taken by Government of India? I would also like to know whether it was intimated to the State Government of Assam and whether the State Government of Assam asked the Government of India to help them with some kind of logistic support. What was the reply and what was the response of the Government of India in order to

help Assam Government to meet the growing communal tension between Bodos and non-Bodos? This is a very important fact which I want to know.

Thirdly, I am very happy that the Government of Assam, the Union Government and a section of ABSU have agreed to sit around the table and engage themselves in working out a political solution of the problem. In this connection may I know from the hon. Minister of State for Home whether it is not a fact that there are other factions working within the area on a separate kind of demand also for the redressal of the grievances of the Bodo population there and whether the Government of India has extended an invitation to other groups, to other platforms, to other organisations who are also engaged in the Bodo agitation in that area? If not, what are the reasons for this? If it is desired by Government of India that there should be a political soultion worked out through negotiations, does the Government feel that negotiations with only a group of agitations can lead to a truthful result?

[The Vice Chairman (Shri Jagesh Desai) in the Chair].

Fourthly and lastly, there is no doubt about the fact that the Bodos have got certain genuine grievances—for their economic and social upliftment, for the recognition of their ethnic identity, for the protection of their language and culture. I would like to know whether the Government of India has any proposal to grant regional autonomy to the Bodos in order to protect their ethnic rights, ethnic identity, language and culture and also to give certain amount of administrative responsibilities for economic and social upliftment. That is provide opportunities for them to take part in the decision making process for the development of the area. I would like to know whether the Government has got such a proposal to be considered as a basis for a desirable political solution of the problem.

4.00 P.M.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, on the 14th August we were very much perturbed to know from the media about the killing of 100 people and the fleeing of 60,000 people to Arunachal Pradesh, and I, on behalf of my party demanded that the honourable Home Minister should come out with hard facts about that. I am happy today that the honourable Minister of State for Home has come out with a statement, giving a detailed report on the incident that took place at Gohpur.

Sir, there were group clashes in Gohpur and in neighbouring Lakhimpur. In his statement the honourable Minister has stated that officially he has come to know that 16 persons were killed in the group clashes and some 3,000 people of the Bodo community fled away from that place. Sir, actually this news originated from Itanagar. All this news was highly exaggerated and, I would say, with an evil design. For the last two years, the Missings, the Kardis, the Nepalese the Bengalis, the Muslims, the ex-tea garden labourers and other Assamese communities have all been living in panic due to the criminal activities indulged in and the attacks that were made by the Bodo extremists in those places, and a few thousand, more than 3,000, are still in relief camps on National Highway itself.

Sir, a few days back, as the Home Minister has stated, some incidents took place. A missing girl was raped by the Bodo extremists in front of her parents; a five-year old boy was thrown into fire and burnt alive in front of his parents. These brutal killings and such other incidents made the air dense with panic. Till today, the Bodo extremists have killed more than 500 people in the whole State and they have burnt down more than 6000 houses in the whole State of Assam. In the circumstances, we urge upon the Central Govern-

[Shri Chitta Basu]

ment to come forward with all possible help, adequate help, to curb terrorism in that part of the country and thereby to bring back normalcy.

Sir, my colleague, Mr. Dipen Ghosh, inquired whether an inquiry would be made about the publication of the fabricated news. I have already mentioned that all this news originated from Itanagar. On 12th August the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Mr. Gegong Apang, had sent one message to the Chief Minister of Assam, with a copy to the Home Minister of India wherein he stated:

"...1,000 Assamese people team from Narayanpur area under North Lakhimpur with the active support of Assam Police and reportedly raided six Bodo villages under Gohpur PS of Sonitpur Dist. ..."

He also stated:

"... 40 Bodo people mostly women and children had been killed. 9 injured Bodo were also reportedly taken away by Assam Police..."

He has also said that many persons fled away to Arunachal Pradesh to take shelter there.

All these things were fabricated, highly exaggerated and blown-up things. This news, this message of the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh has actually been published by all the newspapers. It was published through all the media, and it has made the whole State very panicky.

But subsequently the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh has denied it. When the Chief Minister of Assam met him, he has denied it. On the meeting that was held on the 15th of August at Itanagar with the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, the Chief Minister of Assam has sent a message to the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh. The message reads:

"This is to place on record that at joint press conference held by us at Itanagar on 15-8-89 you were gracious enough to admit (1) that you did not give any information to Govt. of India or press about Gohpur riots."

Sir, the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh himself sent the wireless message on the 12th of August to the Chief Minister of Assam with a copy to the Home Minister of Assam. On the 15th of August he denied that neither he has given any message to the Home Ministry nor has he given any message to the media.

"(2) that according to your confirmed reports...."

That means the reports by the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.

"... there were only three deaths of Bodos."

Not 40 mentioned earlier.

"(3) that not more than five to six thousand persons are in four makeshift relief camps set up in Arunachal by themselves and not by Arunachal Government."

He says that the Arunachal Pradesh Government made some camps for the refugees in Arunachal itself. But it was also not true.

" With regard to your message dated 12-8-89 to me..." That means "to the Chief Minister of Assam."

"with copy to Union Home Minister that 40 persons mostly women and children were killed in Gohpur riots, you were good enough to admit that it was based on rumours and unverified reports and in fact you also agreed that all your reports giving statistical details of number of Boros killed, injured, number of Boro houses burnt down, number of Boros in camps in Arunachal, intimidation and harassment of Boros in Assam by Assam Police etc. etc. etc. were based on rumours only."

This has caused damage to the whole of this State.

Sir, I want to know from the hon. Home Minister whether some explanation in this regard would be asked for from the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh by the Government of India.

Sir, no doubt, some people were killed, as we already know, sixteen in number, and some thousand people were affected, and as has been stated, about 50 villages were burnt down. This is actually a tragedy in the social life of our State. We do not want recurrence of such incidents in future. Already the Assam Government has instituted one inquiry about the administrative lapses, if there be any, to find them out and to take action on them. Not being satisfied only with it, the Government has instituted some judicial inquiry also with a sitting High Court Judge to inquire into the incidents that took place in Gohpur. Let me put on record to facilitate the official inquiry about the administrative lapses, the district Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police have already been transferred from that place. Moreover, the Government of Assam is going to take hard steps against those who tried to fan communalism, including the correspondent of the PTI, who, without verifying all those things sent the news of killings on hearsay and made it, of course briefed by the Arunachal CM. The Government of Assam is thinking of filing some criminal case against the person who was involved in the publication of such mischievous news. Let me put on record again that the people of the Bodo community of Assam are our own people. The Government of Assam is keen enough to preserve the identity of their language and culture. The Government of Assam is sincerely taking steps to preserve the linguistic and cultural identities of all the Assamese tribes, including the Bodos. At the same time it will have to be kept in mind that for the greater interest of the people of the State the unity and integrity of the State must be preserved. My esteemed colleague, Chitta Basu, has suggested in the form of a question about the formation of regional autonomy. I want to say that the percentage of Bodo people in Assam is 7 only and they are scattered all over the State. Moreover, not only the Bodos, but the interests of all other tribes like Miesings, Kargis, Labhas, Dimasas, Tivas, Devras and others have also to be looked into. Therefore at the time of finding out a solution we shall have to keep all these things in mind so that their grievances can be redressed and the unity and integrity of the State can be preserved.

It will also have to be kept in mind that if separatist or divisive forces try to create mistrust, distrust, hatred and ill-feelings and thereby make the people of the State suffer, I repeat what I said on 14th of August, that we shall have to take a united stand to combat these forces. Let the Government of Assam identify who are the forces that have been engineering the condemned killings and arsons and lootings and other crimes in Gohpur and at other places. It will then take necessary steps against them also. The Union Government will have to help the Government of Assam by all means. We shall have to see that those evil forces cannot frustrate the proposed talks. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to help the State Government to curb terrorism and to bring normalcy and to enable it to hold the proposed talks with a view to finding out a settlement of the whole problem.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the situation in Assam is becoming serious. The Bodo agitation is not a new development. This agitation was there for the last two years. The Government of India knows it very well as to what is happening there. According

[Shri N. E. Balaram]

to the newspaper reports—I do not know how far the reports are true—some Bodo leaders were there at the invitation of the Home Ministry and they are having close contacts with the leaders of the agitation. But now the agitation which is going on for the last two years has taken a very serious turn. I understand that the Chief Minister of Assam has already issued an order to institute an inquiry by a Judge of the High Court and relief measures are being organised by the Government. According to my information the Assam Chief Minister has already written a letter on the 15th August requesting the Bodo leaders to have a discussion or a dialogue on this question but the reply given by those leaders was not positive. But now I understand from the statement that Bodo leaders have already decided to suspend the agitation for the time being and decided to participate in the negotiations. That is a good development, no doubt about it. I think those negotiations will take place on the 28th August in New Delhi in the presence of representatives of the Government. I hope that something positive will emerge out of this discussion. I want to express my sorrow because the Home Minister in his statement has stated that they met the Chief Minister only on the 9th August to discuss about serious developments in that State when they knew that this agitation was going on since a long time and this is not a small matter and I do not think that we can solve these matters by piecemeal measures. It requires a substantial solution. We know that there are a number of tribals in the country. In Assam the Bodo tribes are spear heading the agitation and they are demanding a separate State. I do not know whether that would be a solution. Will it not create more problems? Anyway, it is a political question which should be settled by dialogue and discussion. Some of the Bodo leaders are demanding regional autonomy. That may be a solution through discussion. We can settle those issues. Why I am citing this problem here is that not only in Assam but in many parts of the country the tribals are now raising some basic questions; right or wrong, they are raising basic questions which we have not been able to tackle for the last forty years. They are trying to settle this issue in a peaceful way. You can give some sop. You can give some RLEGP programme, some employment programme. By that you tried to solve those problems. But now the situation has changed. They do not want your anti-poverty programmes of that type. They want something more. They think, they are part and parcel of this country. In some areas, they are demanding States. They have got special languages, special culture. So this problem cannot be tackled in the old way. We must have a perspective. You cannot solve this problem in a piecemeal way. That period is over. We must have a perspective. We have to take into consideration their feelings, their consciousness, their awareness. They are also very eager to participate in the development of this country. They feel they are part and parcel of this country. In that way, I think, this is high time for the Government of India to think about it. A fresh thinking about the whole problems required and then only you can solve the problem. You try to utilise the situation—because you are hostile to Assam Government—I know it very well. You are hostile to all the non-Congress (I) Governments. You are hostile to Assam Government also. Now, you can utilise this time against Assam Government. That is one way. But that won't solve the problem. You may have some temporary benefit. But I do not know what will happen. You have done it in Tripura. You may try such things but that will give you some temporary benefits, not benefits for the whole country. What I am saying is that instead of thinking of

such methods, you should give up your hostile attitude. Why I say hostile attitude? It is because of the fact that this agitation was going on for the last two years and you are meeting the Chief Minister of Assam only on the 9th of this month. It should have been done a bit earlier so that the problem could not have developed in such a dimension. The whole thing is to be viewed in this context. What I am saying is that the Government of India should have visualised this problem earlier. This agitation has been going on for the last two years. Why didn't you intervene? I think you should have tried earlier to solve this problem. But it was not done earlier. That is my question. Anyway? I think that by this negotiation which you are going to have only at the end of this month, a solution may be found out. While dealing with this problem, what are the problems that are coming up? Can you tell us anything about this? What would be the nature of this conference? I think by now the situation is coming to a settlement. Though it is coming to a settlement, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the perspective of the coming conference.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, 9 अगस्त को गृह मंत्रीजी ने सदन में घोषणा की थी कि उसी दिन वे शाम को आसाम के मुख्य मंत्री से मिलने वाले हैं और उनसे भेंट होने के बाद वह वक्तव्य देंगे। जब आसाम के मुख्य मंत्री से उनकी भेंट हो गयी तो उसी दिन गृह मंत्री जी ने यह वक्तव्य दिया भी था। फिर 14 अगस्त को इस सदन में डा० नगेन सैकिया ने यह मामला उठाया यह जरूर हुआ कि गोहपुर में जो घटना घटी उस पर सरकार का वक्तव्य आया।

महोदय, यह जो आसाम की समस्या है या वहां के ट्राइबल्स की जो समस्या है, वहां करीब-करीब दो साल से एक आग धीरे-धीरे सुलग रही है। इस प्रकार का जो आंदोलन होता है और आसाम में जो हिंसा हो रही है क्योंकि सरकार ने स्वयं माना है कि वहां पर आगजनी हुई, वहां पर मकान जलाए गए, गांवों को क्षति पहुंचायी गयी, लूटपाट की घटना हुई और काफी लोगों की जान गयी। हालांकि इसमें यह भी कहा गया है कि The area being widespread and inaccessible, it has not been possible for the Central team to ascertain the precise figures of death and houses burnt तो मैं यह भी चाहूंगा कि जब भी इसकी जानकारी हो जाय तो सरकार को अपनी सूचना के साथ इस देश को जानकारी करानी चाहिए। लेकिन वहां पर जो असंतोष है, उस असंतोष के क्या कारण हैं और साथ ही साथ उसके कारणों के समाधान के लिए जो आन्दोलन हो रहा है और उस आन्दोलन में जो हिंसा हो रही है, यह वास्तव में बहुत चिन्ता का विषय है क्योंकि इस प्रकार की घटनायें पंजाब में कितने दिनों से घटित हो रही हैं और देश के कुछ और भागों में भी इस प्रकार की घटनाएं हुई हैं और आसाम चूंकि हमारे देश का एक सीमा-प्रदेश है, इसलिए जो ट्राइबल हैं वह भी इस देश के नागरिक हैं। तो आसाम के मुख्य मंत्री ने जो केन्द्र की सरकार के सुझाव को ठीक ही माना और जैसी कि घोषणा की गई है और उन्होंने कहा है कि इस महीने के आखिर में बैठकर के बात-चीत से इस समस्या का समाधान करने की कोशिश करेंगे। मैं भी यह समझता हूं कि लोकतंत्र में और भारत में जिसने सारे विश्व को अहिंसा सिखाया, वहां पर हिंसा का कोई स्थान नहीं होना चाहिए और सभी समस्याओं का संविधान की परिधि के अन्दर हल होना चाहिए। लेकिन फिर भी बोडो के आन्दोलन के सिलसिले में कभी-कभी आशंकाएं व्यक्त की गई हैं कि इन आन्दोलनकारियों के पीछे कुछ केन्द्रीय कर्मचारियों का या अधिकारियों का हाथ रहा है जो केन्द्र के अंतर्गत काम करते हैं! तो यह जो आशंका है मैंने इसीलिए आशंका शब्द का इस्तेमाल किया है, इसको दूर करने की कोशिश की जाए।

दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो ज्यूडिशियल इन्क्वायरी बैठाई गई है इसका टर्म्स आफ रिफरेंस भी तय हुआ है या नहीं हुआ है? अगर यह तय हो गया है तो उसको भी बताने की कृपा की जाए।

[श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय]

तीसरे, इस वक्तव्य में इस बात को स्वीकार किया गया है, कुछ संख्या भी दी गई है कि कितने गांव जले। जैसे इसमें कहा गया है कि सैंट्रल रिलीफ कमेटी के 22 लोग मरे। फिर कहते हैं कि सोनितपुर जिले के 32 गांव और लखीमपुर जिले में 14 गांव जले, लेकिन इस बात की कोई जानकारी नहीं दी गई कि जो गांव जले हैं, जो क्षतिपूर्ति हुई है जो लूट-पाट हुई है और जिन लोगों का नुकसान हुआ है या जिन लोगों की हत्या हुई है या मौत के शिकार हुए हैं, उनकी क्षतिपूर्ति किस प्रकार से की गई है? इस वक्तव्य को पढ़ने से तो यही लगता है कि ऐसे लोगों की क्षतिपूर्ति नहीं की गई है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्षतिपूर्ति क्यों नहीं की गई है? उनकी क्षतिपूर्ति करनी चाहिए और अगर नहीं की गई है तो उस सिलसिले में केन्द्र सरकार को भी आगे आना चाहिए। असम सरकार ने क्षतिपूर्ति अगर की है तो इसकी जानकारी करानी चाहिए।

और अंत में मैं जरूर यह कहना चाहूंगा कि समस्या का समाधान जितनी जल्दी हो सके उतना ही अच्छा है और इसलिए जितनी भी इसमें भागीदार पार्टीज हैं, चाहे केन्द्रीय सरकार हो, असम की सरकार हो या जो ट्राइबल एरिया के लोग हैं उनके प्रतिनिधि हों, और जैसा चित्त बसु जी ने भी इशारा किया है कि किसी एक वर्ग, किसी एक समूह के लोगों से बैठकर बात-चीत नहीं करनी चाहिए और अगर एक समूह के लोगों से बातचीत की जाएगी तो दूसरे वर्ग के लोग इसमें असंतुष्ट रहेंगे और चूंकि हम सभी चाहते हैं कि समस्या का समाधान अति-शीघ्र हो, इसलिए, विशेष जिम्मेदारी असम सरकार की है क्योंकि यह केवल कानून और व्यवस्था का मामला नहीं है और उसका समाधान राजनीतिक होना चाहिए इसलिए मैं इस सदन के माध्यम से विशेष रूप से असम सरकार के मुख्य मंत्री से, वहां की सरकार से आग्रह करूंगा कि जब दिल्ली में बातचीत करने जा रहे हैं इस महीने के आखिर में, तो उसमें जितनी भी संबंधित पार्टीज हों उन सबको बुलाकर उनसे बातचीत करनी चाहिए।

अंत में जिन स्पष्टीकरणों को मैंने पूछा है, गृह मंत्री जी जब अपना उत्तर देंगे तो उनके बारे में बताने की कृपा करें।

श्री शशिभूषण कुमार (बिहार): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय के बयान में पहले यह कहा गया है कि "... as soon as authentic reports are received from the State Government of Assam and the Central Team sent by us..." हम जानकारी देंगे। यह बात सही कही गई, पर 3 पृष्ठ पर आते-आते उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि "The area being wide-spread and inaccessible, it has not been possible for the Central team to ascertain the precise figures of death and houses burnt."

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे गृह मंत्री जी उसी क्षेत्र के रहने वाले हैं और वे जानते हैं कि कितना बिखरा हुआ क्षेत्र है वह जो ब्रह्मपुत्र के उत्तर में बंगाल से लेकर बर्मा तक फैला हुआ क्षेत्र है और यह जो घटना का स्थान है गोपुर रिजर्व फारेस्ट, यह भूटान से सटा हुआ है। वहां पर यातायात की सुविधायें बहुत कम हैं। पिछले दिनों में जो हमारे भूटान के साथ बहुत अच्छे संबंध नहीं रहे हैं तो यह चर्चा का विषय रहा है और मैं गृह मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या इन आतंकवादियों के भूटान से भी संबंध हैं?

दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि बोडो भाषा को एक लिपि दी जाये और वह लिपि रोमन हो या नागरी हो इसके बारे में बहुत आन्दोलन चला था पिछले दिनों में। इस बात को लेकर काफी बड़ा आन्दोलन हुआ था उनके द्वारा जिस समय श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी थी जहां तक मुझे याद है 1974 में उनके सामने चर्चा में यह तय हुआ था कि बोडो भाषा देवनागरी लिपि में लिखी जायेगी और इस आन्दोलन के बाद केन्द्रीय सरकार ने यह निर्णय किया था कि इस भाषा के विकास के लिये वह प्रति वर्ष आर्थिक सहायता देगी। उसके लिये विशेष चिन्ता

करने की बात तत्कालीन असम सरकार ने भी कही थी परन्तु इसका क्या हुआ यह बताने की कृपा करें क्योंकि यह समझौता प्रधान मंत्री की देखरेख में हुआ था । मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि जो भी केन्द्रीय सरकार ने आश्वासन दिया था वह कितना पूरा हुआ और कितना नहीं हुआ । मेरी जानकारी यह है कि उस भाषा के विकास के लिये अर्थ की मात्रा यहां से जो निश्चित की गई थी वह भी दी नहीं गई । इसलिये वहां पर भाषा का असंतोष फैला रहा । असम सरकार ने भी उस भाषा को आगे बढ़ाने के लिये जो कुछ करना चाहिये था वह नहीं किया, उसमें कमी रही । इस समय भाषा का प्रश्न और अलगाववाद का प्रश्न उठा है तो यह भी सवाल उठाया गया है कि हमको देवनागरी लिपि नहीं चाहिये, रोमन लिपि चाहिये । तो मैं गृह मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि यह रोमन लिपि का प्रश्न उठाने वालों में बोडो लोगों के बीच में जो लोग धर्मान्तिरण करके ईसाई हो गये हैं उनका कितना हाथ है ? इस सारे आन्दोलन में मिशनरियों की क्या भूमिका रही है, यह बताने की कृपा करें क्योंकि मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार जितनी बरबादी हुई है उग्रवादियों द्वारा जो स्कूल और सरकारी बिल्डिगें जलाई गई हैं या गांवों के अन्दर जो ईसाई मतावलंबी हैं उनमें ईसाई मिशनरियों से संबंधित जो स्कूल हैं उनमें एक भी नहीं जलाया गया । क्या यह सत्य है ? अगर सत्य है तो इससे यह निष्कर्ष निकलता है कि एक प्रकार के लोगों को, दूसरे प्रकार के लोगों को ईसाई मिशनरियों ने भड़काया है जिससे यह आन्दोलन बढ़ा है ।

आपके वक्तव्य में बहुत सारी चीजें हैं जैसे 37 रिलीफ कैंप चल रहे हैं जिनमें 26500 लोग हैं, उनमें 1100 बोडो भी हैं । यहां बोडो एंड अदर्स भी वक्तव्य में कहा गया है । मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार उस गांव में जहां आन्दोलन हो रहा है, बड़ी मात्रा में बंगला देश से आये हुये घुसपैठिये भी विद्यमान हैं । गांव के गांव उनके हैं । जो संघर्ष हो रहा है इसमें उनका कितना हाथ है और जो मूल आदिवासी असम के रहने वाले है उनका कितना हाथ है इसको भी स्पष्ट करने की कृपा करें । अखबारों में भी इस प्रकार की चर्चा आई है कि बोडो उग्रवादियों को जो हथियार मिल रहे हैं उसका केन्द्र नागालैंड में है, शिलांग में है और वहां पर जो भी सरकार है वह उनका बरदहस्त प्राप्त किये है और वे वहां जाकर सुरक्षित रह सकते हैं । इसके बारे में भी कितनी जानकारी केन्द्र सरकार को है और वह क्या करना चाहती है, यह बताने की कृपा करें । ये जो बोडो उग्रवादी हैं उनसे बातचीत करने के बाद यह बात भी ध्यान में आयी कि उनको इस बात से प्रोत्साहन मिला है कि नागालैंड में और मिजोरम में शस्त्र संघर्ष करने के बाद ही उनको स्टेट सैपरेट हो गयी । जो समझौता सरकार ने किया है और जो 371 धारा मिजोरम को दी गयी इन सारी सुविधाओं को प्रदान करने के बाद से जब से मिजोरम का समझौता हुआ है उसके बाद से ही इस आन्दोलन को बहुत बड़ी प्रेरणा मिली है । यह आन्दोलन उग्र होकर चल रहा है । तो क्या यह सत्य है कि उन दोनों समझौतों का उनके ऊपर असर पड़ा है और आज जो उग्रवाद हो रहा है उसके अन्दर ये सारी चीजें है ?

अन्त में मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि आपने बताया है 20 अगस्त को ट्राईपर्टाइट टाक हो रही है उसमें असम सरकार रहेगी और केन्द्रीय सरकार रहेगी । बोडो के कौन प्रतिनिधि होंगे यह मैं जानना चाहूंगा ? क्या बोडो के प्रतिनिधि केवल आबसू के लोग होंगे जो हत्या और दूसरा सारा उग्रवाद कर रहे हैं या बोडो के वे प्रतिनिधि होंगे जो बोडो के एम०एल०ए० होकर पीटीसी कौंसिल के सदस्य होकर विधान सभा में मौजूद है और इस तरह के संघर्ष के साथ नहीं है ? अगर इस प्रकार से सरकार ने केवल उग्रवादियों

[श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय]

से बात की जिस प्रकार से पंजाब समझौते में सारे पंजाब से बात न कर के केवल एक ग्रुप से बात की इसलिये वह पूरा इम्पलीमेंट नहीं हो सका, पंजाब के अन्दर और भी बहुत से धड़े थे, अकाली दल में भी धड़े थे और समाज के और भी बहुत भाग थे उनको छोड़ दिया गया । मैं सरकार से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि जो बोडो समाज के अन्दर भिन्न-भिन्न प्रकार के लोग हैं, शांतिप्रिय लोग हैं उनको भी वहां पर टॉक पर बुलाया जाय नहीं तो गलत धारणा फैल जायेगी । अगर यह धारणा फैल गयी तो उसका परिणाम हमारे प्रदेश में भी होने वाला है जो हम देख रहे हैं कि झारखंड वार्ता के अन्दर केवल उन्हीं लोगों को झारखंड से बुला रहे हैं जो न एम०एल०ए० हैं, न एम० पी० हैं केवल उग्रवाद करते हैं, रेलों को तोड़ते हैं, रेलों को जलाते हैं, केवल उन्हीं को बुलाया जा रहा है । मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन की ओर से अपनी भावना व्यक्त करना चाहूंगा कि गृह मंत्री जी जब यह चर्चा करते हैं तो किसी एक जाति विशेष के एक ग्रुप को लेकर न करे, केवल एक उग्रवादी ग्रुप को न बुलाये बल्कि उसके अन्दर जितने प्रकार के लोग हैं उन सब को वार्ता में बुलाया जाये । अगर इस प्रकार से नहीं करेंगे तो देश में उग्रवाद बढ़ेगा । इन बातों के लिये मैं चाहूंगा गृह मंत्री जी स्पष्ट करें ।

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice Chairman, Sir, the situation that has arisen in Assam due to the continued agitation by the Bodos resulting in violence and killings is really shocking. The other day, a lady Member from Assam made a Special Mention stating that a large number of people, about 200, have been killed because of this agitation and it was really very shocking and we did not know at that time as to what was actually happening in Assam. Even the Home Minister who was present here in the House never tried to contradict it. But, in another way, he tried to put the blame on the Assam Government.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Never, never.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: He tried to put the blame on the Assam Government by stating that he had not received any information from the Chief Minister of Assam whereas he had received information from the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the House and also the Home Minister to the correspondence that has taken place between the Chief Ministers of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister has clearly stated that he did not give any information either to the Central Government or the Press. Therefore, I do not know why Mr. Buta Singh made a statement in this House to the effect that he did not receive any information from the Assam Chief Minister, but he got information only from the Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister. Therefore, I would like to know whether the statement he has made in this House is the correct one or the statement made by the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh is the correct one. Some Members have tried to know from the Minister where the source of this Bodo agitation lies and who are behind this agitation. There are some reports and we have also read in the newspapers and we have also heard from other sources that behind this Bodo agitation—there may be justification or there may be some reason for this agitation by the Bodos because they are fighting for their rights—is the Central Government. It has been the impression of most of the people. I would like to know whether the Central Government or its agencies are involved in encouraging the Bodos to create trouble in Assam to discredit the properly elected Government of Assam. It has been the attitude of the Central Government to create troubles every-

where. We have seen what they have done in West Bengal. We have seen this in other parts of the country. So I would like to know from the Minister whether any agency of the Central Government is involved in this affair.

Thirdly, the Minister has stated in his statement on page 2:

> "According to tha figures collected from the district authorities of Assam, 33 villages in Sonitpur District and 14 in Lakhimpur District were affected by arson. Number of confirmed deaths given by Assam Government was 16, including 7 — all non-Bodos in Sonitpur District and 9 (Bodos—4 and non-Bodos 5) in Lakhimpur District. In addition, 4 dead bodies were reported to have been recovered in Arunachal Pradesh. According to the Central Relief Committee of Bodos, 22 Bodos were dead and many more are missing, but it has not been possible to verify this claim..."

The Central Government seems to have sent a central team there. The hon. Minister comes from that State. Even to this day the Central Government is not in a position to find out the real figures. They have said that the Assam Government have opened relief camps and all these things. I would like to know from the hon. Minister then what the Central team has done. They have gone. They made an aerial survey. They met the officials. They met the Bodos. They met non-Bodos. But they could not get any information. And this cannot be confirmed. I do not know what the Central Government is doing.

I would also like to know from the hon. Minister, what exact relief measures by way of assistance have been taken by the Central Government, to assist the State Government? Of course, the State Government has opened some camps, providing rice and other materials to the suffering people. On the part of the Central Government I do not know what measures have been taken to help these people.

The Bodos have agreed to have a dialogue to solve the Bodo problem. Some of the representatives have come or are coming to Delhi to have a dialogue with the State Government in the presence of the Central Government. I think that the Central Government must give a helping hand in solving this, instead of creating more trouble.

Lastly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what are the prospects of solving this problem without creating any trouble for the State Government of Assam?

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA (Punjab): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have read the report by the Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs. And, fortunately, I have also been able to get copies of the reports sent by the Chief Minister to the Home Ministry both on the 14th and 15th. One thing that I would like to mention is that about the concern whether the Ministry there knew what was happening there seems to have been an unnecessary apprehension on the part of the Central Government. Why? I don't know. The next thing I would like to know is that whereas it has been mentioned in the report that the Chief Minister and the Governor have confirmed from the Governor and Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh that there are not more than 5000 to 6000 Bodo refugees. The figures given here is 20,000. Is it based on some latest information or is it an assumption?

The third point I have is that in the report given by the Chief Minister it is mentioned what compensation he has already decided to give to the people. There is no mention of it in the report that has been given to us by the hon. Minister here. Why not? I think it should be mentioned that he has decided to compensate those people as quickly as

[Sardar Jagjit Singh Aurora]

possible even to the extent of providing them some money so that they can rebuild their houses again. The thing I would like to mention here is that Assam has a conglomeration of tribals, hill tribals, plainsmen and various other people. They do need to merge themselves and get a feeling of all being Assamese. It is as important as it is for all of us living in India with diverse elements to feel that we are all Indians. We keep on stressing it. It is a very important thing to do. To that extent it is incumbent on the Central Ministry here to support any Assam Ministry. It does not matter whether it belongs to the Congress Party or not and to help them to ensure that that merging of the various languages, various tribals and ethnic differences goes on and the differences are sorted out so that they become more cohesive than what they are at the present moment. We have already carved out two or three States out of Assam. By dividing them further you are not going to really bring about peace in that area. In fact, you are going to bring about more violence because people are taking sides. As it has been mentioned earlier, the Etanagar people have believed everying and all the rumours about Bodos that were given to them. Similarly, I do know that in Assam, having lived there for a limited period, there are certain elements still. Although the missionaries have done very good work, but they have also inculcated in them a spirit that they are not Indians and that they are different. It is within my own knowledge that on the 15th of August a girl said to an Indian family for whom she was working: "You celebrate your Independence Day and we celebrate our Queen's Birthday". I am just giving you an example. It is extremely important. It is a very sensitive area. It is necessary for the Government here at the Centre to do everything they can to bring in this unity and the ability in all these people to feel that they are Assamese. This report gives me an impression that that is not really being done. It appears that the Bodos are being badly treated by the Assamese Government and but for the help from the Centre, have to be protected by the Centre. It is not so. The figures do not speak about it. In fact, the figures that have been given to me show that the Bodos have killed more non-tribals. The number of Bodos who have ever been killed is less than the number of non-tribals. They are possibly a more ferocious ethnic minority. As we have them in Punjab, I am not saying that there is anything wrong. But it is necessary that we must not take sides and help the Government to establish a greater hegemony. I would, therefore, like to ask one or two pointed questions. The first is that as far as the relief is concerned, it has been announced by the Government of Assam. To what extent is the Government going to help in re-establishing these people who are now victims so that they can go back? What is the assistance that they are going to give? Secondly, I am very happy that it has been decided that these Bodos are going to come and get together and the Government is going to help in getting their problems sorted out. And my request is that we must make certain that the Assam State does not become more porous than it already is.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE (Assam): Respected Vice-Chairman, Sir, hon. Member, Shri Satyanarayan Reddy said that the Centre was encouraging the Bodos. I do not know who was encouraging him to say so, but...

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Operation Zoom Zoom.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: ...the picture is not so. Sir, Assam is burning. It is not that

I have said it. If you check the records, hon. Mr. Nagen Saikia has said that for the last two years, all the people of Gohpur and adjacent areas, the Bengalis, the non-Bodos, the Bodos, the Mishings, and all kinds of people have been living in an atmosphere of panic and tension. He himself has admitted that during the last agitation 500 people have died and 6,000 houses have been burnt. If we add up those other figures of arson and loot, well, the Members of this august House can well imagine what the law and order situation is in Assam. (*Interruption*). It is not my figure. These figures have been supplied by him.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I have allowed Mr. Nagen Saikia to speak as much as he wanted.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Mr. Nagen Saikia himself has said this. What is the law and order situation in Assam? Anywhere if a human tragedy occurs, it is a matter of great concern for the whole nation. Whether they are Bodos or non-Bodos, religious minority or linguistic minority, it is immaterial. Many people have been killed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): That is the point.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: And the Government of Assam, specially the Home Department has miserably failed. It has got to be admitted on all hands. You will just see, Sir, that Gohpur is a very, very sensitive area. There are many advisors of the AGP Government on the other side, very learned and respected, and very knowledgeable persons. They have also got to advise them properly. The incident that sparked off this 'carnage that never was'—the 'Times of India' reports as the 'carnage that never was'; I do not call it a carnage but 20 people were killed on the 10th night, and the figure is not yet confirmed—took [illegible] 7th night. The incident where a 5 year old boy was thrown into the fire and his guardian was killed took place on the 7th night. Gohpur is a very, very sensitive area, mind you. And communal disturbances have erupted on the previous occasions also. Was it not the duty of the State Government to take very stringent precautionary measures to avoid any sort of occurrence? The State Government miserably failed there. Three days elapsed. It was not a spontaneous repercussion. It took three days for retaliation. As regards the report, sometimes when something is published in the newspaper, you contend, you dispute. The other day, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh wrote a letter to Haji Mastan. Then he denied that he did not write. All right...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar): How is it relevant?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): He is giving an example.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Please bear with me.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am appealing to you. Perhaps, you did not listen to what the hon. Member was saying.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I did not listen.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I request you most humbly that it should be deleted. It should be deleted. There is no relevance. (*Interruptions*) Why should this kind of politics be injected in this matter?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): As far as possible, please avoid all these controversies.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): Sir, more than 500 people, he has said, have died in the Gohpur area. On the 14th August he said, he made a statement in the House that you kill them on an instalment basis. So probably accord.

[Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty]

ing to his suggestions they are acting. He is engineering... (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, no, please. This is a very sensitive issue.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Killing them on an instalment basis is a suggestion which has come from him. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Let us speak in such a manner that it helps the situation.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: It is clearly seen that their hand is there and they are engineering the trouble.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Sir, some news came out regarding administrative lapses also and involvement of some persons. It came out in the newspaper. I want to inform the hon. Minister that the Government of Assam is taking a hard stand on it and an inquiry commission has already been constituted. If there are any administrative lapses and if some persons are proved to be involved in generating the idea of offence, the State Government of Assam is not going to spare anybody.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It is on record.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: What I have said is in the context of this, namely, that when the Chief Minister of Assam supposedly says something and then he denies it, it is not believable. But when somebody else supposedly writes a letter and then it is denied, it is believable. You see, when the Chief Minister of Arunachal supposedly says something, then denied it, you do not believe it. But when a very important opposition leader supposedly does something and then denies it, you believe it why this double standard?

If you believe this believe that also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): All right, all right.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I know it because hon. Mr. Nagen Saikia was disputing something and saying that one front member was proposing that they are having a national opposition accord like something. He was saying something, Mr. Chitta Basu was saying something without knowing their mind. He was opposing. I know their state of affairs in the opposition. I am not going into that. But, Sir, if hon. Mr. Dipen Ghosh in his own inimitable style can go from Assam to Tripura, let me also be allowed to stray away a little.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It was a passing reference.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: I am only on the border. Sir, my specific questions are: There is a report that some people are missing. Is it a fact? Has there been any confirmation on that account? My second point of clarification is, is the Central Government going to rush immediate Central assistance—and my friends will once again be angry—because on account of the Assam Government's financial mismanagement, the position of Assam Government's finances is not good. You know we require enough Central assistance for maintaining these relief camps and for giving liberal financial assistance to the families of the deceased. Is the Central Government going to release liberal financial assistance for helping the Assam Government? Is the Central Government trying to open a dialogue? So long, it was a Bodo monologue. Now the Assam Government has agreed to open a dialogue. And it is a very significant and a happy sign that Assam Government has agreed to open a dialogue where the Central Government representative will also be there. But as many Members have also expressed their apprehension, if time lapses, again there may be an atmosphere of

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tension, suspense and uncertainty. So will the Central Government take it up with the Chief Minister of Assam to announce the date of this dialogue, because it has been reported in the newspapers that ABSU leaders have called off thousand and one hours bandh. So, this opportunity has got to be seized immediately. Is the Government taking it up with the Chief Minister of Assam to immediately declare a date for the talks so that this sensitive Bodo problem could be solved immediately and we would live as happy brethren in Assam? Thank you.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, thank you for giving me this opportunity, though you said that I should be a little brief—(*Interruptions*). When I rise, there is agitation from the other side; I don't know what makes them to agitate.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Don't bring in any controversy. We want to solve the problem.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am not creating a controversy. But when I say some facts, they are not agreeable. What can I do?

Sir, the statement made by the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs is self-explanatory which gives in details the areas that have been affected by the massacre, looting and arson. We find that about 33 villages in Sonitput and 14 villages in Lakhimpur districts have been affected by this massacre. Apart from that as Mr. Saikia said, 16,000 houses have been burnt. As Mr. Kamalendu Bhattacharjee said, the incident of throwing the boy into the fire by the Bodos took place on 7th. The district administration and the Government of Assam did not take any steps, though they sensed the feeling that there will be masscre in that area. Intelligence reports were there with them. In spite of that, they did not take any action, and it is utter failure on the part of the State Government in tackling law and order situation. And, therefore, this incident could occur. The people fled to Arunachal border. I will reffer to one sentence in the Minister's statement where he said that the Central team visited there, and on their suggestion, some relief camps have to be organised in the Assam-Arunachal border for rehabilitation of Bodos. The State Government acted so callously and carelessly in rehabilitating these people. They are organising only the relief camps. But what about the rehabilitation of those Bodo people who have migrated to Arunachal border? You have to bring them back and put them in their positions.

I have a specific charge against the State Government. One of the Ministers of the Cabinet of Shri Prafulla Kumar Mohunta was supervising this massacre. One of the Ministers was supervising it and he was encouraging it... (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: I take objection to it... (*Interruptions*). If they want to topple my Government, let them do it democratically...

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: The Home Minister has himself come out with a statement; it is most objectionable.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am asking the Home Minister. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): You have made your point. The Minister will reply to it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: According to the information gathered by the Central Government, whether it is a fact... (*Interruptions*) I am putting the question. (*Interruptions*)

SHIMATI BIJOY CHAKRAVARTY: Vice-Chairman, Sir, I strongly object to this. How can he make such an allegation? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARYANASAMY: I am putting the question to the Minister. (*Interruptions*) I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that one of the Ministers of the Prafulla Kumar Mohanta Ministry was supervising this massacre and encouraging... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir, I strongly object. He cannot make such an allegation. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): The Minister will reply to it. (*Interruptions*) This is a very serious issue. He has put the question. The Minister will answer it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH (Gujarat): Day in and day out, they are making charges against the Central Government. What business have they got to say that charges cannot be made against the State Goevrnment? (*Interruptions*) What is so bad in asking this question? (*Interruptions*) Sir, on a point of order. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Please sit down, everybody. (*Interruptions*) I am on my legs now. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: That is Mr. Narayanasamy's opinion. Let the Home Minister reply to it. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): He wants to know from the Minister. I will ask the Minister to reply to this point. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, there is no justification for making such a charge. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Let the Home Minister say whether it is true or not. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: There is nothing in the statement; no such charge has been made. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It is for the Home Minister to say. The Minister will reply. If he does not reply, you can take it up. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I would like to know whether it is a fact out of the Minister in the... (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): You have said it already. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I have not completed the sentence. Do you want that it should be left in the middle? Let me complete it. He was masterminding and supervising the massacre of the Bodos by the non-Bodos. I would like to know whether he was there at the scene and supervising it.

Thirdly, the State administration appointed an enquiry committee for the purpose of finding out whether there were any administrative lapses. I would like to know, what was the result of this enquiry, whether any report has been submitted. Then, I would like to know whether the Central Government would appoint an enquiry Commission because it involves the people of...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): A sitting High Court Judge would enquire into it.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: This is by the State Government. I would like to know... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALASAMY (Tamil Nadu): What does he want? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOTORU HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): He was the person who said the other day that

more than 400 persons were killed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: When one of the Ministers of the State Cabinet was involved in this, my fear is that justice will not be rendered. This is my fear. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I would like to know whether a Central Minister was involved in this or not. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I cannot be prevented from putting any question to the other. Minister. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Mr. Narayanasamy, when an enquiry has been ordered, to be conducted by a sitting High Court Judge, I think it is not be good to put this kind of a question. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: According to reliable information, one Central Minister was involved in this. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It is my demand. It is for the Home Minister to accept it or not. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would consider my suggestion to appoint an Enquiry Commission for the purpose of finding out the truth because... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU (Tamil Nadu): He is not asking you, he is asking the Minister only. Why are you getting up?

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: I want to know whether this is not going to frustrate the talks between the Bodo leaders and the Assam Government. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I leave it to the good sense of the Member.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the gruesome killing of whether Bodos or non-tribals is quite unfortunate. The failure on the part of the Assam Government to prevent the massacre can very well be seen because more than 60,000 people have fled from that area. They have gone to Arunachal. They have been kept in some relief camps there. The Arunachal State Government is not in a position to provide rehabilitation to those who have fled to that area. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Central Government is going to assist the State Government in the relief operations which they have undertaken there. What steps the State Government has taken? Has the information come to the State Government or not?

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman, what has happened in Gohpur is a matter of serious concern for all of us. Rather I am surprised to hear some of the remarks made by our colleagues in the opposition, which has given me to believe that they have not seriously considered the situation over there.

Sir, the developments in Gohpur are not sudden. For the last six months reports of this nature have been coming. Even the common people, ordinary workers, were informing that the situation was tense there. We were receiving this information earlier. Even while seeking clarifications from the Minister on 9th August I had mentioned that tension in that area was building up, what steps the Government was going to take in that respect. It was on 9th August. So, the situation was not new, the incidents were not sudden. This was a handy work of some political people there. Sir, the Deputy Commissioner of that area and the Superintendent of Police, they themselves expressed concern, they have said that the situation was not in their control. They have said this.

Sir, people belonging to both the communities were moving with arms

[Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita]

in daylight, openly, and there was no one to stop them. There was no law and order. Can anyone deny that? Gohpur is one place which is known to most of the citizens of this country because this kind of incidents have occurred earlier also in 1983. The administration should have been extra alert but they have not done any concrete thing to contain tension or to prevent occurrence of violence. Reports had been appearing in the newspapers for a long time. It is not that this happened on that day suddenly. Reports were coming about absconding, kidnapping, murders, and many people were reported missing. Even there are reports that compensation had been paid by the State Government to persons who were reported missing and who astonishingly re-appeared after taking the compensation. Yes, these are the press reports. No one has denied that; no one has contradicted that. What is important in Gohpur and all the areas affected by this agitation is to maintain communal harmony. So far the State Government has not done any thing to maintain communal harmony. I have got examples. Bodo intellectuals and non-Bodo intellectuals have formed peace committees in Kokrajhar and some other areas. They approached the State Government with concrete suggestions. But they were not given any hearing. Even if they were given a hearing, nothing concrete has been done. As a result, those peace committee delegations are coming to Delhi and trying to meet the Central leaders. You cannot question their intentions. Those peace committees consist of people of all communities.

Sir, we are not here to trade charges against each other. It is a very serious situation. Simply trading charges against each other will not solve the problem. I take exception to some of the utterances of Mr. Satyanarayan Reddy who has, I should say, lack of knowledge of the situation of that place. How can he say that the Central Government is responsible for this? How can he say that?

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: It is evident.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Do you know in whose rule the All Bodo Students Union was organised? There was an agitation by the Bodo people earlier. That has been mentioned by many of the speakers. There were some demands. They were agitating earlier also. But there was no violence. During whose rule was this All Bodo Students Union organised? I can prove that a faction of ABSU has still got connection with the ruling party. Can anybody prove that the other faction has any connection with our party or any other party? All Bodo Students Union was one and that was with the ruling party. Later on the split occurred and one faction has gone out. The other faction is still with the ruling party. They have got close links. Can anybody prove that the other faction has got links with any other party?

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: On what basis are you saying that?

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: I have got the basis. Can any one deny that ABSU was organised during the AGP Government rule? I am not blaming anybody. I am stating the truth. If you have anything, you can deny that you can contradict that.

Sir, I will not bring in very controvercial points here. It is a matter of serious concern for all of us. We should know the facts, we should realise the situation, we should try to improve the situation. We should try to improve communal harmony, we should try to establish communal harmony in those areas which have been affected by violence. However, I want to know only one thing from the hon. Minister. What help is the Central Government going to provide

for some concrete steps being taken to maintain communal harmony in the affectd areas and what steps they are going to take to rehabilitate the people affected by recent violence? Thank you.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, श्री संतोष मोहन देव ने जो वक्तव्य दिया है, मुझे खेद है कि मैं उस पर अपना संतोष व्यक्त नहीं कर सकता। कारण यह है कि इस वक्तव्य को तैयार करने में भी प्रेस रिपोर्ट्स का सहारा लिया गया है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपको याद है कि उस दिन जब गोहपुर की घटनाओं के बारे में इस सदन में उत्तेजना पैदा हुई थी तो उसका आधार प्रेस रिपोर्ट थी। समाचार पत्रों में यह छपा था कि करीब 100 लोग मर गये हैं। यह भी छपा था कि 94 लाशें गिन ली गई हैं, हजारों लोग बेघरबार हो गए हैं। कम से कम मैं आशा करता था गृह मंत्री महोदय से या गृह मंत्रालय से कि आज जब वे सदन में बयान देने के लिए खड़े हैं तो अपनी जिम्मेदारी से बात कहें, प्रेस रिपोर्ट के आधार पर नहीं। मैं वक्तव्य का अंतिम अंश आपको पढ़कर सुनाना चाहता हूं।

"I am happy to say that good sense has now prevailed and according to today's' Press reports, the 1001-hour Bandh has been called off by ABSU."

क्या गृह राज्य मंत्री की सूचना का आधार केवल प्रेस रिपोर्ट है? क्या उनका अपना मंत्रालय काम नहीं कर रहा है? उस दिन गलत प्रेस रिपोर्ट के कारण, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप कल्पना करिए, यह तो असम के बारे में था, रिपोर्ट से यह ध्वनि निकलती थी कि जो लोग मारे गए हैं, वह सब लोग बोडो हैं, अब तथ्य तो इसके विपरीत है। यह समाचार किसने भेजा? किस आधार पर भेजा? जिस संवाद समिति ने यह समाचार भेजा, क्या उसने इसकी पुष्टि की? क्या यह अरुणाचल सरकार के कहने पर भेजा गया? अगर इस तरह का समाचार देश के किसी और भाग के बारे में छप जाए और वह प्रमुखता से तो छपेगा, अगर इस अभागे देश में, कहीं 100 लोग मारे जाएं और 94 लोगों की लाशें गिन ली जाएं, और कोई संवाद समिति इतना अनुत्तरदायित्वपूर्ण आचरण करे कि उसकी खबर भेज दे, तो उत्तेजना नहीं फैलेगी? मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या इस बात की जांच की गई कि यह समाचार कैसे आया? कौन इसके लिए जिम्मेदार है? वह समाचार समिति सरकार का समर्थन करती है और सरकार से समर्थन प्राप्त करती है। क्या उसने खेद प्रकट किया? हम गैर सरकारी सदस्य अगर प्रेस रिपोर्ट के आधार पर सदन में बात कहें तो समझ में आ सकता है, यहां तो राज्य गृह मंत्री समाचार पत्र के आधार पर कह रहे हैं कि एक हजार घंटे का बंद नहीं होगा। बंद नहीं होगा यह अच्छी खबर है, मगर आप अपने सूत्र से मिली जानकारी के आधार पर कहिए। कल अगर यह प्रेस रिपोर्ट भी गलत निकली तो? मैं चाहता हूं कि जो पुरानी खबर आई थी और जिसपर सदन में उत्तेजना फैली, उसकी जांच होनी चाहिए, उसकी सच्चाई का पता लगाया जाना चाहिए। किसी संवाद समिति को, किसी समाचार पत्र को इस तरह की खबर कि 100 लोग मारे गए और उस दिन आपको याद है, मैंने कहा था और आपने इसकी पुष्टि की थी कि गोहपुर की एक पृष्ठभूमि है। पिछले हत्याकाण्ड के समय में नीली गया था। मैं लाशों का अंबार देखा था, और 100 लोग मारे गए हैं, 94 लाशें गिन ली गई हैं। किसने गिनी? जब आदमी मरे ही नहीं, तो लाशें कहां से आई? गिनने वाले कौन थे? इसके बारे में एक शब्द भी नहीं है।

महोदय, मैं चाहता हूं कि इसकी जांच की जाए। मैं यह नहीं कह रहा कि सरकार इसको जांच करे लेकिन इस सदन को पता लगना चाहिए कि यह खबर कहां से आई और अगर यह अरुणाचल सरकार ने खबर दी है तो वह सरकार दोषी है, उसको कटघरे में खड़ा किया जाना चाहिए। असम की सरकार तो वह खबर दे नहीं सकती। निराधार, मनगढ़ंत, सारे देश में आग लगाने की क्षमता रखने वाली खबर कैसे फैली, इसका पता लगना जरूरी है संतोष मोहन देव जी, इसके बिना आपके बयान पर संतोष नहीं होगा, नहीं होगा।

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: And who is the person that represented?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, a great human tragedy has been enacting itself in Assam for many years, and what has happened in Gohpur is just one more incident in that tragedy. We in this House must express our deepest sense of sorrow as well as concern over the happenings.

One would have expected, Mr. Vice-Chairman, that in his statement the Minister of State for Home Affairs could have been more specific in regard to the details, specially after the visit of the Central team.

We have been told a story which unfolds from the Minister's statement that because they were not able to get information in regard to the facts on this incident from the Government of Assam, they had to send a Central team. This Central team went, visited the affected areas, held discussions with the officials of the Assam Government as well as the Arunachal Pradesh Government, met other senior high level functionaries and then it has submitted its report. But it is unfortunate that even after the report of this team the facts continue to be very vague. We do not have authentic picture of the number of persons killed. What has been stated in the report is largely hearsay, on what has been told to the team by the State Government officials.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, one thing which occurred to me when I was going through this report is that when the Government of India sent its team, did the team establish contact with the Governments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh before it started its investigation? Did the team take with them the officials of the Assam Government and the Arunachal Pradesh Government so that a joint assessment of the situation could be made? The Minister's statement is not clear on this. If I dare say, if a joint assessment had been made, then, perhaps, the facts would have been more precise, more clear than what we have been given after a lapse of so many days after the incident has taken place.

But even more sinister than that, Mr. Vice-Chairman, is the fact which has been brought to the notice of this House by our esteemed colleague, Mr. Saikia. I do not know how far we have taken note of that fact because what Mr. Saikia has said has not even been indicated in the Minister's statement. Speaker after speaker has referred to the fact that there were exaggerated newspaper reports. The Minister's statement is absolutely silent on how this has happened and how the newspaper reports came to be or the news agency reports came to be exaggerated. But we have a clue to it from the statement, from the speech which Mr. Saikia has made, and it establishes a connection clearly with the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh. The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh is a responsible functionary like the Chief Minister of a neighbouring State. He is sending a wireless message to his counterpart in Assam with a copy of it to the Union Home Ministry, saying that this is the kind of incident which has taken place, which is absolutely exaggerated, whch was, perhaps, based either on hearsay or on imagination or on both, one does not know.

Is it within the sphere of responsibility of a Chief Minister of a neighbouring State to get so alarmed and send such an alarming report? I would like the Minister of State to state this clearly in his reply whether the Home Ministry in Delhi did receive a wireless message from the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, stating what Mr. Saikia has just said. He must confirm it. And if it is not true, let him deny it.

But this brings us to another point. In this House I was present that day when our esteemed colleague, Mr. Upendra, was reading from a document the information that a Central agency is behind the agitation of the Bodos in Assam. He said it with a full sense of responsibility. We were told in this House that when the time would come the Government would give a reply to that. I think the time has come. We are discussing this, the statement of the Minister, and I would like the Minister, I would urge upon the Minister to tell us whether this Operation Jhum Jhum is a fact or fiction. Is RAW behind this agitation or not? Is the Government out to destabilise the Government of Assam? Are they through their sinister designs trying to topple a democratically elected Government in one part of the country? That itself is not enough. When we have this evidence coming from Mr. Saikia that a neighbouring Congress (I) ruled State Chief Minister has played a role which can, at best, be described as dubious in this whole thing, then our suspicions get even more confirmed that it is not merely the RAW of the Government of India, but perhaps the ruling party Government in a neighbouring State, which is being set upon a non-Congress (I) Governments in its neighbourhood. What kind of situation are we living in? I personally consider it to be a very serious matter. I would request the Minister of State for Home to kindly throw light on this because in this country, in our federal structure, we, then, cannot have a situation where two Governments belonging to different political parties can be at each other's throat or will be responsible for destabilising each other. If that is the situation, to my mind, it is a very sinister development. Let the Home Mnister make a clean breast of it and let this House concern itself with this situation and with this development. This is the point which I wanted to make. I hope the Minister of State for Home while replying will be able to clarify this point.

REG. PROPOSED STATEMENT BY HOME MINISTER

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Many Members had made inquiry with me whether the Home Minister will make a statement. I have just received a message that the Home Minister will make a statement about the dangers posed to India's unity and integrity by subversive and separatist activities after this is over. He has already started from the hospital...

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Is it *suo motu* or what?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Just a minute. May I draw your attention to one thing? The other day, when the matter came up, we, in the Opposition, said that this refers to the speech made by the Prime Minister at the Red Fort. Therefore, we requested that the Prime Minister should come over here and make a statment and allow us to seek clarifications. So, if the Home Minister is making the Statement on the same thing, I think this cannot be allowed. Only the Prime Minister should come and make a statement on his speech. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: If it is a *suo motu* statement or something else, it is different. But if he is going to make....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I have told you the subject.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Subject arising out of what?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It is a statement.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Is a *suo motu* statement or the statement on the Prime Minister's speech? We would like to know that.